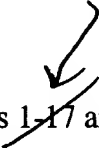


1, 2, 4-12, 14, and 15



REMARKS

Claims ~~1-17~~ are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawings.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bender et al. ("Bender") (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,790). The present invention is related to the use of buffers to bypass the writing of the image data onto a hard drive prior to printing. As such, print operations can be accomplished in a quicker manner, and in addition, computer resources can be effectively used by not waiting for a printing operation (i.e., they can be released).

The Examiner states that Bender discloses a printer 10 (citing Figure 1), which can store data received over a network 15 in an auxiliary storage device 128 (citing Figure 2), namely an internal hard disk (citing col. 8, lines 28-30). The Examiner also states that Bender further discloses a communication processing means 11 (citing Figure 1) for receiving data via the network and image data generation means to interpret and generate image data. Likewise for the claimed print processing means (citing col. 7, lines 36-45) and the detection means where the Examiner states that Bender discloses detection means to detect the state in which the received data is being processed; in Bender's system in step 252 (citing Figure 4) the apparatus checks to determine whether any fully buffered files are in the hard disk, and in step 520 (Figure 7A) the

apparatus checks to determine whether a new job is arriving at the input of the apparatus (citing col. 11 lines 25-27 and col. 16 lines 48-60).

The Examiner states that the bypass mode is disclosed by Bender where if it is determined that the disk read buffer 136 is available to accept new data, image data is sent directly from the disk write buffers 116 to the disk read buffer 136, bypassing the hard drive (citing col. 9 lines 49-67).

Solely to advanced prosecution of a particular embodiment of the invention, Applicants have incorporated features of claim 3 into claim 1. Further, claim 1 has been amended to recite a feature "in the criterion of the memory block of said first and second buffer memories." That is, ^{claimed} in the ~~present~~ invention, the received data is sent in the unit of memory blocks. This feature is fully explained, for example, on page 14, line 4 to page 15, line 15 and page 19, line 1 to 21, as well as elsewhere in the present specification (see also Figures 5-8 ~~for understanding~~). ✓

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Bender nor Yonei teach or suggest such a concept that the mode switching is conducted based on the unit of the memory block, specifically based on if all memory blocks in the first or second buffer memory store data. ✓

Applicants have also amended claim 12 in a similar manner, and have cancelled claims 3, 13, 16 and 17.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, Applicants submit that these claims recite the difference among *three modes* based on the transfer of the memory blocks, which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. Further, Yonei's "bypass mode" is not the same as the recited second bypass mode. Accordingly, Applicants submit that each of the claims include patentable subject matter and are in form for allowance.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application 09/521,915

Attorney Docket No. Q58162

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

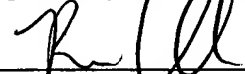
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